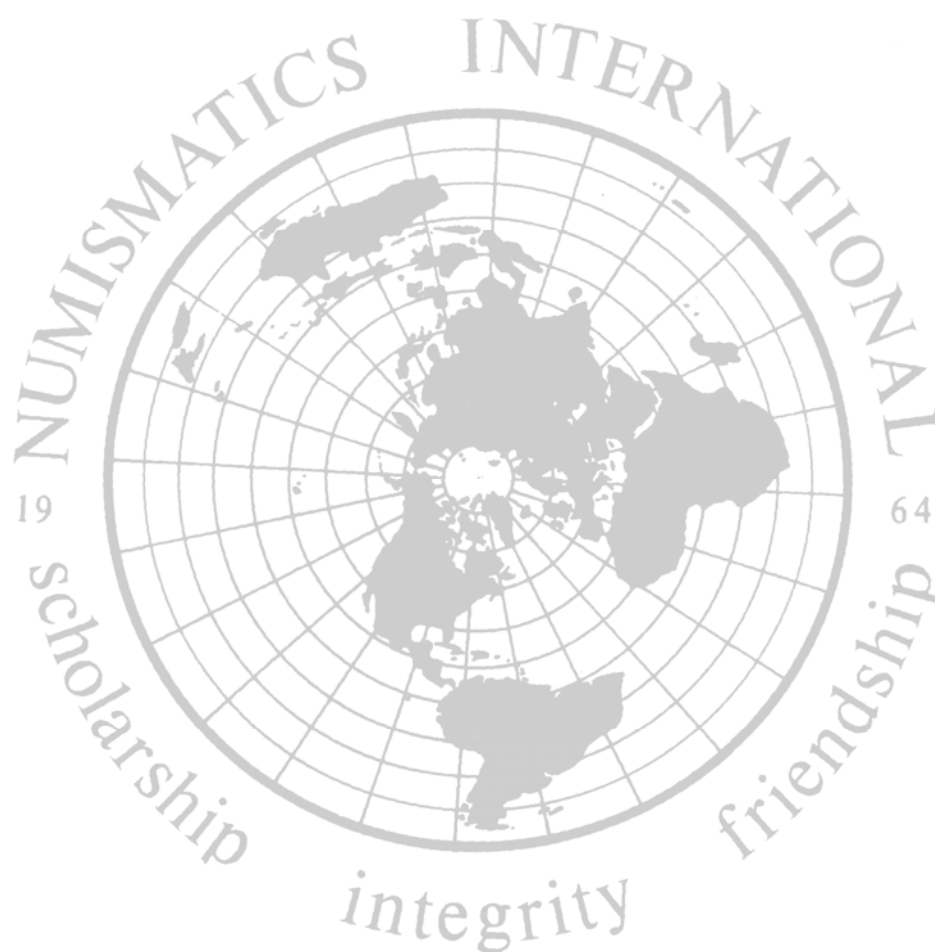


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Letter to the Editor

In 1970, international concern for the preservation of cultural property was voiced through the auspices of a UNESCO convention that codified the need for member States to work cooperatively in preventing the loss of cultural heritage through removal of cultural property from countries of origin. The definitions of cultural property under this convention are so broad and ambiguous that virtually anything that is either found in or on the ground, or anything more than 100 years old, is considered in need of "protection". This protection is, not surprisingly, to be accomplished by placing all of these objects under the control and supervision of stewards who are none other than the very individuals promoting the controls. Those who promote this sort of governmental eminent domain would extend it to even the most inconspicuous and innocuous of items, including coins that were struck in the millions and survive in incredibly huge numbers yet today. Cultural property prohibitionists believe that the looting of archaeological sites in source countries is a direct result of the private market for collectible items. Elimination of the market will, in their view, eliminate site looting. Consequently, there has been a dramatically increasing effort by this group to use the tools of government in the United States to achieve their ambitions. They have achieved an extraordinary amount of influence within certain elements of the State Department, and have convinced several legislators that their view is correct—and that the right and proper path for the U.S. Government is to restrict the importation of cultural property into the United States. The purpose of such restrictions is readily (and proudly) admitted as a means to encourage disruption of the collector market. The hobby as we know it today will cease to exist if we do not succeed in thwarting the ambitions of these cultural property prohibitionists.

Continued on page 259

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The Maria Theresa Talers and How to Identify the Restrike

J.D. White

When I became interested in the restrike talers a few years ago, it was quite difficult to locate any information about them. Over time, this is what I have learned; I hope you find it useful. Also, this is a work in progress; if you have any coin images that fill in some of the blanks that you would like to share with others, please contact me.

The Archduchess of Austria and queen of Hungary and Bohemia (1740-80), consort of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I and dowager empress after the accession in 1765



of her son, Joseph I, Maria Theresa strengthened and unified the Austrian monarchy in the 18th century. Born in Vienna on May 13, 1717, she was the daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI. In 1736 she married Francis Stephen of Lorraine (later Holy Roman Emperor Francis I), and the couple eventually had 16 children, including two future emperors, Joseph II and Leopold II, and Marie Antoinette, later queen of France.

Her warm personality and strength of will won her the loyalty of her subjects and troops, to whom she appealed directly in moments of crisis. Her husband was given a share in governing her hereditary lands, but the actual government was in the hands of Maria Theresa.

On the 21st of September, 1753, Empress Maria Theresa signed a coinage convention with the Prince Elector of Bavaria. This Treaty also defined the silver content of every coin and fixed the ratio between the Gulden and Taler at 2:1. In addition, the coins had raised edged lettering to prevent clipping.

Between 1746 and her death on November 29, 1780, Austrian mints and the mints of several Austrian States produced no less than 43 different silver Taler designs using bust portraits of Maria Theresa, as well as various Kreuzer denominations, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ Talers, and gold Ducats. The Maria Theresa Taler was also known as the "Levantine Taler" and has been considered the world's most famous silver coin. The silver Taler itself was the currency of the Empire and the Austrian hereditary lands, and was very important for trade with the Levant (Syria, Lebanon and parts of Turkey).

The "Levantine Taler" also became the best known and most popular silver coin in the Arabian world and the official currency of some of the lands in North Africa. In Austria, Maria Theresa Talers were legal tender until October, 1958. Owing to an imperial patent dated September 19, 1857, Maria Theresa "Levantine Talers" of the

1780 design have been continuously restruck, unchanged, as an historical souvenir combining beauty of design with the value of silver.

Maria Theresa Taler Designs

- Dav.1109, KM1964, Vienna Mint, 1741-44, Rev: Crowned arms
- Dav.1110, KM1965, Vienna Mint, 1744-45, Rev: Griffon supporters
- Dav.1111, KM1966, Vienna Mint, 1746-52, Diademed young bust right
- Dav.1112, KM1967, Vienna Mint, 1753, More mature armored bust right
- Dav.1112, KM1967a, Vienna Mint, 1754-65, More mature armored bust right
- Dav.1113, KM1968, Vienna Mint, 1758, 1765, Young armored bust right
- Dav.1114, KM1969, Vienna Mint, Veiled bust right
- Dav.1115, KM1970, Vienna Mint, 1767-72, Veiled head right
- Dav.1116, KM1971.1, Vienna Mint, 1772-79, Smaller veiled head right
- Dav.1117, KM1971.2, Vienna Mint.
- NOTE: 1780, Obv larger bust, Rev IC-FA located below Eagles claws.
Design restruck until 1784 with minor changes, NOT considered a restrike
- KM1972, Ordens Mint, 1769 IC-SK, Veiled head right w/jeweled bust
- Dav.1118, KM545, Graz Mint, 1765, Draped bust
- Dav.1119, KM546, Graz Mint, 1765, Armored bust
- Dav.1120, KM743, Hall Mint, 1746-65, Bust right in decorated gown
- Dav.1121, KM744, Hall Mint, 1751-53 Bust right w/ plain gown
- Dav.1121, KM745, Hall Mint, 1754-65, Bust right w/ plain gown
- Dav.1122, KM746, Hall Mint, 1751-65, Mature armored bust right
- Dav.1123, KM747, Hall Mint, 1765-72, Veiled bust right
- Dav.1124, KM748, Hall Mint, 1772-76, Obv. smaller veil on bust, Rev. initials
- Dav.1125, KM328.1, Hungary, 1741, Obv. leg: MA.THERESA-D:G:REG:HUNG:BOH
- Dav.1125A, KM328.2, Hungary, 1741-42, Obv. leg. ends:.. HUNG:BO
- Dav.1125B, KM328.3, Hungary, 1741-42, Obv. leg: MA. Theresa..., ends:.. HUN:BO
- Dav.1126, KM328.4, Hungary, 1743-44, Obv. leg: MA. Theresa..., ends:.. HUN:BO
- Dav.1127, KM333, Kremnitz Mint, Hungary, 1743-44 O, Obv: modified hair style, leg ends: ...HU:BO, Rev: mint marks KM, large K left of rays at 09:00, large M right of rays at 03:00
- Dav.1128, KM337.1, Kremnitz Mint, Hungary, 1744-45, Obv: smaller bust, Rev: mint marks KM, large K left of rays at 09:00, large M right of rays at 03:00
- Dav.1129, KM337.2, Kremnitz Mint, Hungary, 1746-48, Obv. leg: M.THER...
- Dav.1130, KM349.1, Kremnitz Mint, Hungary, 1749-52, Rev: larger shield below Madonna, mintmarks KM, small K left of rays at 07:00, small M right of rays at 05:00
- Dav.1131, KM349.2, Hungary, 1751-X, Rev: larger shield below Madonna
- Dav...., KM349.3, Hungary, 1752-X, modified drapery
- Dav.1132, KM358.1, Hungary, 1751-65-X

- Dav.1135, KM358.2, Hungary, 1763, (reported, not confirmed) Mint mark NB
- Dav....., KM358.3, Hungary, 1766, Mint mark K
- Dav....., KM378, Hungary, 1763-64·X·, Decorative gown, Mint mark KB
- Dav.1136, KM1539, Prague Mint, 1746-50, Bust right
- Dav.1136A, KM1540, Prague Mint, 1751-60, Bust right, Rev. X after date
- Dav.1137, KM1541, Prague Mint, 1758-59, Mature bust right, Rev. Crowned Imperial Eagle w/crowned arms of St. Joachim and Bohemia on breast, and crossed battle axes below eagle.
- Dav.1138, KM1542, Prague Mint, 1767-72, Veiled head right
- Dav.1139, KM1543, Prague Mint, 1773-75, Head right w/ smaller veil
- Dav.1140, KM1544, Prague Mint, 1780, Large head veiled right (NOT a restrike)
- Dav.1147, KM15, Burgau Mint, 1764-65, Armored bust right
- Dav.1149, KM21, Burgau Mint, 1765-72, Veiled bust right
- Dav.1150, KM22, Burgau Mint, 1773-80, Bust w/ smaller veil, Rev. leg: ARCHID·AUSTDUX· Note: The KM22 1780 SF is NOT a restrike.
- Dav.1151, KM23, Burgau Mint, 1780 SF/X/, Large mature bust, Rev. leg: ARCHID·AVST·DUX· Note: This is the restrike design and is covered in more detail below.

Images are not shown actual size.



KM1967a, Vienna Mint, 1765, more mature armored bust right.
NOTE: Complex arms with Vienna mint represented in the center.



KM1970, Vienna Mint, 1769, Veiled head right,
IC-SK located below Eagle's claws on reverse.



KM1971.1, Vienna Mint, 1773, Smaller veiled head right, Reverse, IC-SK (Johann August Cronberg/Sigmund Klemmer, 1766-1774), located left & right below the Eagle's claws. Also IC-FA (Johann August Cronberg/Franz Aicherau, 1774-1780).



KM745, Hall Mint, 1761, Bust right w/ plain gown.
 NOTE: Complex arms with the Hall mint represented in the center.



KM748, Hall Mint, 1772.
 Obverse smaller veil on bust, A-S located below Eagle's claws on reverse.



KM358.1, Hungary, 1760-X.

Obv: The gown's design in the chest area can be smooth or decorative.

Rev: dominated by the Madonna, but mintmark K-B can vary in size and position: middle of field, lower third of field or either side of the crest. The shape of the glory (rays) can also vary.



KM1541, Prague Mint, 1758, Mature bust right. Single coat of arms, crowned Imperial Eagle with crowned arms of St. Joachim & Bohemia on breast, and crossed battle axes below eagle.



KM15, Burgau Mint, 1765 SC, Armored bust right.

NOTE: Complex arms with the Burgau mint represented in the center.

1780 Designs Not Considered Restrikes

It is important to note that eight different Mints produced several different designs all considered KM23 between 1780 and 1784, but only one of these designs is the authorized design restruck for the last 200 years. KM23 1780 design variations that are NOT normally considered restrikes because of design variations with the "official" design, limited production time (1780 to 1784), and small production quantities are:

- IC-FA - Rev: IC-FA located below the eagle's claws, "IC" on the left and "FA" on the right (Vienna Mint)
- SF/X - Obv: S·F· located under the bust. Rev: ·X· located after the date as 1780·X·
- FS - Obv: FS located under the bust
- TS-SF - Obv: TS-SF located under the bust, "TS" in smaller type over S·F·
- PS-IK - Rev: PS-IK located below the eagle's claws "PS" on the left and "IK" on the right
- B-SK-PD - Obv: "B" located under bust. Rev: SK-PD located below the eagle's claws, "SK" on the left and "PD" on the right (Kremnitz Mint, Hungary)
- AH-GS - Obv: smaller bust with a different broach and dress. Rev: AH-GS located below the eagle's claws, "AH" on the left and "GS" on the right, (Karlsburg Mint)



KM23, IC-FA, Vienna Mint, Large Mature Bust.

Obverse bust design is similar to the approved restrike design but without designer's mark under bust; reverse design has mint marks under both of the eagle's claws and "AVST" indicating it was produced after her death.



1780 SF·X·, Burgau Mint, Large Mature Bust.

"SF" located under the obverse bust as S·F·. Reverse "X" (saltire) follows the date as 1780·X·. "AVST" indicates it was produced after her death.



KM23, 1780 B-SK-PD, Kremnitz Mint, Hungary, Large Mature Bust.
 Obverse: "B" located under bust. Reverse: SK-PD located
 below the eagle's claws, "SK" on the left and "PD" on the right.



KM23, AH-GS, Karlsburg Mint, Small Mature Bust.
 Obverse bust design is smaller than the approved restrike design, without designer's
 mark under bust; reverse design has mint marks under both of the eagle's claws and
 "AVST" indicating it was produced after her death.

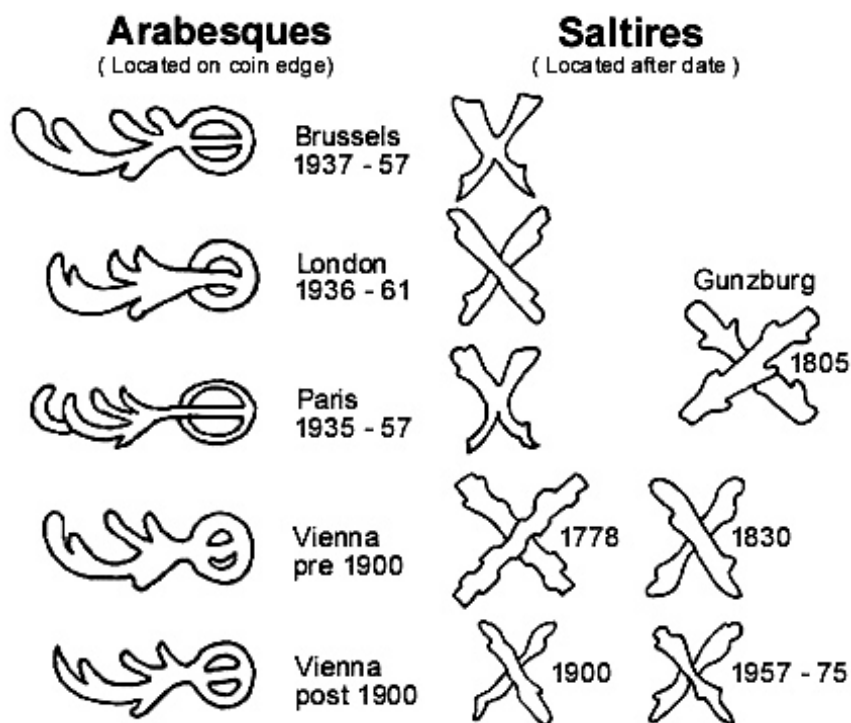
The Restrike

The 1780 Large Mature Bust (Dav.1151, KM23, SF/X design) has been authorized under Austrian law for restriking since the death of Maria Theresa (shown below). The original design was struck in southern Germany (then part of the Habsburg Empire) at the Günzburg Mint in the last year of Maria Theresa's life. Since that time, about 800 million 1780-dated pieces have been struck, with only minor design changes, by several different nations, primarily for use as trade coinage. The mints in these nations included:

Vienna 1920-37	<u>Rome 1935-38</u>	Paris 1935-57	London 1936-61
Brussels 1937-57	Bombay 1940-41	Birmingham 1949-55	<u>Vienna 1957 to date</u>

In its heyday, it was the most widely accepted silver coin in the Middle East and North Africa, even becoming an official currency in some areas. In many African countries, this coin was still used as legal tender into the Second World War. In 1961, the Austrian government ruled that no other country could strike the talers and all restrikes are now produced at the Vienna Mint.

Edge Arabesques and Saltires



Line drawings representing many of the edge arabesques and saltires. (Modified Broome)

After 1784, identifying which mint produced a particular restrike can be difficult at best. However, there are two helpful diagnostics, the arabesques located on the coin's edge, and the saltire located on the reverse after the date. The saltire is actually a pair of crossed staves that appear as an "X" located after the date. The saltire was added after 1750 denoting Maria Theresa's reign over the Austrian Netherlands. The above figure is a line drawing of many of these markings, and as shown in the restrike image below, these markings are not always well defined.

Restrike Variants

The following URL, <http://www.Theresa.name/en/varianten.html>, is the internet address of a web site that describes Maria Theresa Taler (restrike) variants, complete with images, using data from the book, "Der Maria Theresa Taler 1780" by Dr. Fanz Leypold. Presented are design variations in brooch, shield, signature, saltire and tails feather designs 1780 to the present. You should take note of the fact that tail feather variants were limited to the period between 1780 to 1795 and then only from the Günzburg mint. In addition, with only one exception, saltire variants were produced before 1853. As you use this table to prove to yourself that you have a coin struck very early please remember, dark toning and wear have little or nothing to do with the age of the coin. And with the possibility of as many as 800 million restrike coins produced since 1780, you shouldn't get your hopes too high that you have an early restrike in your possession.

Rome Restrike Diagnostic



The 1935-38 Rome restrike reverse design has two pin feathers below each of the eagle's main tail feathers (circled). A web page (in Italian) dedicated to this coin can be found at URL: http://incuso.altervista.org/tallero_conv_ve3.php

The Vienna Restrike Defined



KM23, Burgau Mint, 1780 SF/X/, Large Mature Bust Restrike, (the "SF" is located under the obverse bust as S·F· while the "X" (saltire) follows the date on the reverse as 1780·X).

The obverse has a portrait of the mature Empress wearing a widow's veil (designed to meet Arabic demands) and a brooch with nine pearls. The obverse Latin inscription: "M · THERESA · D · G · R · IMP · HU · BO · REG · " translates as: Maria Theresa, by the grace of God Roman Empress, of Hungary and Bohemia Queen. The initials "S·F·", located under the bust represent the two 1780 Günzburg mint officials, Tobias Schöbl (S) and Joseph Faby (F).

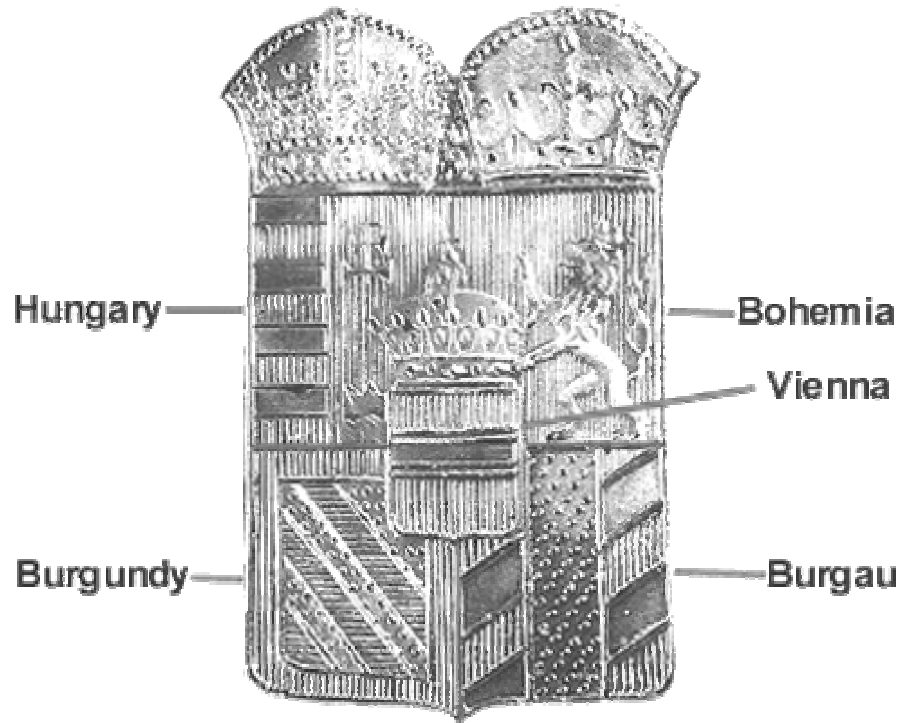
The reverse displays the imperial double-headed eagle with the Austrian shield in the center divided into quarters for Hungary, Bohemia, Burgundy and Burgau. The reverse Latin inscription: "ARCHID · AUST · DUX · BURG · CO · TYR · 1780 · X" translates as: Archduchess of Austria, Duchess of Burgundy, Countess of Tyrol 1780.

The raised edge has variety of decorative arabesques which separate the Latin inscription: "IUSTITIA ET CLEMENTIA" which translates as: "Justice and Clemency", the official motto of the two principles on which Maria Theresa based her whole life.

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Numismatics International web site, please
make use of it.

<http://www.numis.org>

1780 Restrike reverse Austrian Shield of Arms.



Divided into four quadrants and comprised of four different provincial coat of arms.

NOTE: Earlier designs (pre 1780) used a more complex Shield, a Madonna, or only a single coat of arms representing the province that minted the coin.

Resource List:

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- Leypold, Dr. Franz. Der Maria Theresa Taler 1780.
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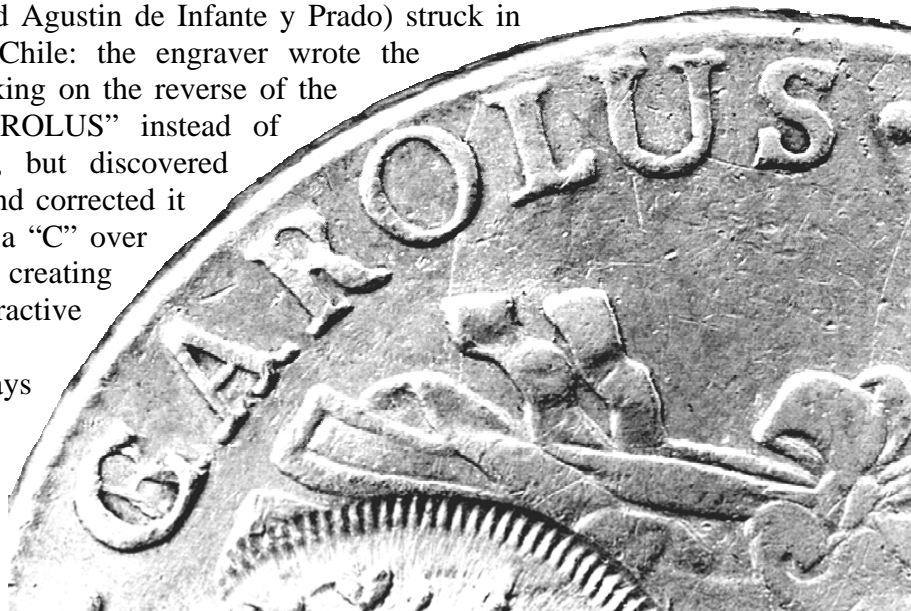
Translation assistance - Martin Purdy, Translation from W. European Languages.

NI

A Coin with a Rectified Error and a Countermark

Georg H. Foerster NI # 2584

More than 2000 years ago, Marcus Tullius Cicero said, “Cuiusvis hominis est errare, nullius nisi insipientis in errore perseverare” (*Any man is liable to err, only a fool persists in error*). During the last 2000 years, many error coins have been struck and have entered circulation without anybody having detected and corrected the errors. This was not, however the case with the 8 Reales 1796 DA (assayers Domingo Eizaguirre and Agustin de Infante y Prado) struck in Santiago de Chile: the engraver wrote the name of the king on the reverse of the coin as “RAROLUS” instead of “CAROLUS”, but discovered his mistake and corrected it by engraving a “C” over the “R”, thus creating an attractive numismatic variety always in demand.



In the beginning of the seventies of the last century the author learned about the existence of this variety when studying the second edition of Carlos Elizondo's “Eight Reales and Pesos of the New World”. In an additional note, Elizondo indicates that he discovered this coin in the Carlos Schaible collection, a renowned Chilean collector of German origin. It is estimated that about 15 to 20 examples of the 8 Reales 1796 DA C/RAROLUS may have survived but at least one of them did not stay in Chile but left the country some 200 years ago to travel to Minas Gerais in the east of Brazil.



There, on September 1st, 1808, the authorities ordered the counterstamping of circulating Spanish American 8 Reales applying a “carimbo bifacial” with the banded globe of Brazil on one side and the arms of Minas Gerais on the other side and indicating a value of 960 Reis, considerably more than the intrinsic value of the coin, thus producing a nice profit for the government.

The 960 Reis of Minas Gerais over 8 Reales 1796 DA C/RAROLUS from Santiago de Chile originates from the Wayte Raymond collection, sold in the USA in 1978.



Afghan and Iranian Coppers Usually a Disappointment

Bob Reis NI # 1649

For some two hundred fifty years the coining of copper in Iran and Afghanistan was, for the most part, under the administration of municipal governments, as opposed to the precious metals, which were a royal monopoly. There was a tendency for the crown to hoard gold, and for rich people to hoard silver, leaving copper as the principal medium of day to day exchange.

We think the tax versus services situation is bad now, but we're living in paradise compared to what people had to put up with back then and over there. Nobles were tax exempt. Governors and other officials purchased their positions and recouped their outlay by levying taxes. There was no ceiling on tax rates, it was strictly a matter of what the officials could get away with. And services? What are services, the citizens of the time would have asked. Government's job was to oppress, wasn't that obvious?

Among the official positions that were purchasable was that of mint master. How would a mint master make more money? There are two possibilities. One is to shrink the coinage, which in the case of precious metals wouldn't fly. You'd likely end up with your head on a pole. The other would be to require that old coins be turned in for new ones at regular intervals, a charge being levied for the changeover.

This latter method became the standard procedure in the 18th and 18th centuries in Iran and Afghanistan. It was especially popular with the municipalities, which, being restricted to the coining of copper, had a smaller profit margin to work with. In Afghanistan especially was this true, and there is evidence that at cities such as Kabul, Herat, and Kandahar re-coinages were often made on a yearly schedule.

Hundreds or thousands of types of copper coins are known from these countries for this period. They are not particularly common as a class of coins, many having been melted when the currencies were regularized in the 20th century. And most individual types are rather scarce, due to their having been re-coined one or more times. Scarcer still are foreign coins overstruck by municipalities, but both Russian and British Indian undercoins are known.

The most common types, unfortunately, are multiply struck jumbles, where you will find a bird's wing or a lion's tail, a few letters, often part of the word "falus," the denomination, rather than the mint, and perhaps the unimportant numerals of the date (initial "1" for instance, or perhaps "12"). These coins can be real disappointments, as you realize that you are looking at parts of three or four different types, not one of which is positively identifiable, on the same planchet.



Letter to the Editor, continued from page 243

There are basically three organizations that are currently funding the opposition to import restrictions on ancient coins. They are the International Association of Professional Numismatists (IAPN), the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG) and the newly formed Ancient Coin Collectors Guild. The IAPN and PNG are trade organizations; the ACCG is a collector organization. All three of these organizations need and deserve support from the numismatic community to continue this work. The latest news about requests for import restrictions and an archive of articles and editorials on the subject is available at the ACCG web site: <http://accg.us>.

Wayne G. Sayles NI # 2560



St. Lucy
Bob Forrest NI #2382

St. Lucy is said to have been born to wealthy Christian parents in Syracuse, Sicily, in the latter part of the third century AD. Her father died when she was an infant, and she was brought up by her mother, Eutychia. Whilst still very young, Lucy decided to devote her life to God, but kept her decision a secret from her mother, who, meanwhile, had decided to marry her off to a wealthy pagan nobleman. (This is a common theme in Christian mythology—or hagiography, if you prefer: where walks a Virgin Martyr, a pagan noble suitor is never far away...). Lucy naturally sought to escape this unwelcome prospect, and her deliverance came when her mother, who had been ill for some years, was miraculously cured by Lucy's earnest prayers. Lucy naturally chose this opportune moment to reveal to her mother her desire to serve God in a state of perpetual virginity, and her mother, in gratitude, gave her daughter the go-ahead, even though this involved selling off some of the family silver and giving the proceeds to the poor. Her noble pagan suitor was, needless to say, not nearly so enthusiastic about the idea, and in a fit of not very noble pique, denounced her to the Governor as a Christian, the persecutions of Diocletian being then in full swing. As a result, Lucy was condemned to serve as a prostitute in a brothel, but God rendered her immovable, and the guards could not carry her there. So they decided

to burn her instead, but this didn't work either. In the end, she was dispatched with a sword thrust to the throat. The year was AD 304.



On the modern Spanish aluminum medal, shown here, 1½ times actual size, the Virgin Martyr is depicted standing amid the flames which failed to harm her, holding the palm of martyrdom and the sword with which she was finally killed. She also holds a bowl containing what appear to be two marbles, but which are in fact her eyes. Therein lies another tale, for according to one later legend, she had a suitor who was particularly captivated by the beauty of her eyes, so she plucked them out and gave them to him, the result of which shock-tactic was, not unnaturally, exit suitor. Subsequently, the story goes, her eyes were miraculously restored to her, on which account she came to be the patron saint of those afflicted with eye-troubles. This medieval yarn probably rests on nothing more than simple word-play, it being fancied that there must be some connection between the name Lucy (Lucia on the medal) and the Latin word for light, Lux, whose genitive form Lucis more readily reveals the basis for these speculations, via such modern words as lucid and translucent! Of such stuff is hagiography made....

The reverse of the medal is, of course, a standard representation of Christ revealing his Sacred Heart.

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